

# Barracks tightens belt, shortens gate hours

## Carlisle Barracks responds to 'tighter belt': Ashburn gate to close in off-duty hours

As of Monday, Dec. 7 until further notice, the Ashburn gate on Route 11 will be open 5:30 am to 8:30 pm weekdays and training holidays. It will be closed weekends and federal holidays.

Carlisle Barracks is one of the worldwide installations that will operate at reduced funding levels in fiscal 2010. The IMCOM/ACSIM commander, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, laid out his priorities. "Our challenge is to ensure those key, higher priority programs across to ensure that key, higher priority programs across all installations do not suffer. Lynch pledged commitment to full support to life, health and safety programs, and the Army Family Covenant. He directed commanders and leaders across the installations to become better stewards of resources and to do business smarter and more efficiently without sacrificing quality of service. *[The full text of Lt. Gen. Lynch's column is below.]*

For small installations, belt-tightening is a tough task. Already efficient, almost 94 percent of base operations budget here is fixed for civilian pay, utility payments and the DPW basops contracts, according to Lynn Snyder, director of Resource Management for both college and garrison. "It's already working on a shoe string."

"We are very frugal. There is not much wasteful spending going on here and so trying to find ways to save money is even more challenging than on a larger installation," said garrison commander Lt. Col. Jan Holliday. "We will not cut any services that would impact life, health or safety such as police or fire."

The garrison instituted a hiring freeze several weeks ago, and is making a further effort to save money by eliminating guard shifts at Ashburn Gate.

"Closing the Ashburn gate on Route 11 for nights and weekends allows us to better use our guard force without spreading them too thin and also allows us some flexibility in force protection. No guard will lose a job. This will allow us to reduce costs through attrition.

"We realize that the closing of Ashburn gate is an inconvenience to many people," said Holliday. "We are looking into the feasibility of a CAC-access pedestrian gate and MWR will begin running a shuttle

soon that will circulate in a five-mile radius around post on the weekends for those who use the Ashburn pedestrian gate. Should money become available, we will definitely relook the gate closure.

"Programs covered by the Army Family covenant, such as school-age services, the Child Development Center, MWR, etc., will be fully supported," she added.

Every person who lives and works on the installation can do his or her small part to be a better steward – for the environment and for the bottom line. "There are a number of small things that we, working together, can turn into big cost savings," said Holliday.

- Turn off lights in quarters or office when not using them.
- Turn off computers.
- Watch the thermostats.
- Network printers to avoid using unnecessary power.
- Think about whether or not you really NEED two computer monitors.
- Use energy-efficient light bulbs.
- Don't print multiple copies of power point slides when you could just email them.

*Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, IMCOM commanding general and ACSIM **Resourcing the Army Home: Installation Funding Levels on the Decline** In recent years, the Army and its Installations have enjoyed unprecedented levels of funding. In fiscal year 2008, the Army hit a high water mark in its fiscal history with a total annual budget exceeding \$250 billion –three times more than FY2001 funding level. Much of this growth is attributed to funding the war, rebalancing our Army through investments in Army's force structure, equipment, infrastructure, and key Soldier and Family programs. Funding levels of this magnitude are unsustainable year after the year, and as the country faces some stiff economic challenges, we are forced to reduce funding and exact a greater level of stewardship over our resources. The Installation Management Command – like other commands throughout our Army – will operate at reduced funding levels. This means that starting in 2010, performance levels for some*

*installation services will be notably less than what we have had in recent years and will remain at that level for the foreseeable future. Our challenge is to ensure those key, higher priority programs across our installations do not suffer. We will maintain our full support to Life, Health and Safety programs, the Army Family Covenant and those services that prepare our Soldier and their Families for deployment in support of the Army's Force Generation model. These are non-negotiables that will remain fully funded. This is our commitment; we will not depart from it. However, there will be other installation services that will clearly be reduced. We have grown accustomed to some very high levels of service across the board in recent years and we all need to be forthcoming with the expectation that things will be different in some areas. Help manage this expectation across your garrisons. Educate everyone as to which changes they can expect to see. A simple explanation can go a long way to helping understand the changes some of our installation services will undergo. Across the Army's installations, we can do much to help ourselves by becoming better stewards of our resources. It starts with the individual; everybody has a role. Simple things like turning the lights off, powering down your computer at night, driving tactical vehicles instead of TMP vehicles or conducting a VTC instead of traveling to a distant site unnecessarily all save money – and no savings is too small to forego. Commanders and leaders across the installation have a key role and are responsible for the efficient use of our resources. Costs should be an inherent consideration in your every decision. We too often marginalize this key factor in making good, resource-informed decisions but we can no longer afford to do so. As I travel throughout the Army community, I carry the message that we can do business smarter and more efficiently without sacrificing the quality of service that our Soldiers and their Families so richly deserve. I challenge everyone to do the same; to work together to ensure that those key installation programs that mean so much are well resourced and operated; that we do away with wasteful and unnecessary spending. Every person – whether you are a Soldier, Family member, one of our great DA Civilians or a contractor serving our Army – is needed and can make a difference. Ask yourself if you are doing the right things and then, are you doing them right. Doing things right means doing them in the most cost efficient way without sacrificing effectiveness. Army Strong U.S.*

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